

## STEGOPHILUS NEMURUS.

D. 8. A. 6.

Caudal fin deeply forked, the upper lobe produced into a filament. The distance of the origin of the dorsal fin from the root of the caudal is contained once and two-thirds in its distance from the end of the snout. Dorsal fin midway between the root of the ventral and origin of the anal. Anterior part of the back spotted with brown. Tail with obscure, broad, dark cross bands.

One specimen, 3 inches long.

## 5. Contribution to the Ichthyology of Tasmania.

By Dr. A. GÜNTHER.

The British Museum has lately received some large collections of Fishes from Tasmania. Most of the examples belong to species known, but afford much additional information of great interest with regard to geographical distribution, variation of colour, and size, so that I intend to describe them in detail in a memoir destined for the 'Transactions' of the Society. For the present, I give the diagnoses of two undescribed species.

## ANTHIAS RICHARDSONII.

D.  $\frac{10}{20}$ . A.  $\frac{3}{6}$ . L. lat ca. 60.

This species has been received with, and is most closely allied to, *A. rasor*; but whilst *A. rasor* has a subvertical ovate blackish spot below the lateral line, vertically below the commencement of the soft dorsal fin, and covered by the extremity of the pectoral fin, this spot is placed more backwards in *A. richardsonii*; it is placed vertically below the fifth to ninth dorsal rays, below the lateral line, and of a horizontally ovate shape; the pectoral just reaches it.

## NEPTOMENUS DOBULA.

D.  $7\frac{1}{40}$ . A.  $2\frac{1}{23}$ . Vert. 24.

The length of the head is contained thrice and a half in the total length (without caudal), the height of the body four times and one-third. Scales small and deciduous. Pectoral fin not quite so long as the head.

The type of this genus, *N. brama*, is described from a single stuffed example; the species characterized here belongs evidently to the same genus; and I find that it has 24 vertebræ, and therefore belongs to the *Carangidæ*. There are two very small spines in front of, and at a short distance from, the anal fin.

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Mr. F. P. Pascoe exhibited specimens of a Beetle (*Taphroderes distortus*, Westw.) from Natal, belonging to the family Brenthidæ,

in which the left mandible was greatly enlarged and deformed, the right being normal. This peculiarity was stated to be confined to the male.

Mr. W. H. Flower read a memoir on the skeleton of the Chinese White Dolphin (*Delphinus sinensis*, Osbeck), founded on a specimen of this rare species captured near Amoy by Mr. R. Swinhoe, and presented to the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons.

This paper will be published in the Society's 'Transactions.'

A paper was read by Dr. O. Finsch, on the collection of Birds from North-eastern Abyssinia and the Bogos country formed by Mr. William Jesse, Zoologist to the Abyssinian Expedition, accompanied by field-notes by the collector. The collection was stated to be of great interest, and to contain 735 specimens, referable to 221 species, whereof two appeared to be new to science. These were proposed to be called *Alæmon jessii* and *Lanius fallax*.

This paper will be published in the Society's 'Transactions.'

Mr. C. Horne read a paper entitled "Notes on the habits of some Hymenopterous Insects of the North-western Provinces of India." This communication was illustrated by an extensive series of drawings of these insects, their nests, and their parasites.

This paper will be published in the Society's 'Transactions.'

June 24, 1869.

Dr. P. H. Pye-Smith, F.Z.S., in the Chair.

The Secretary spoke of several additions to the Society's Menagerie since the last Meeting, amongst which were particularly noticed:—

1. Two Double-striped Thick-knees (*Ædicnemus bistriatus*) from Central America, presented by George Dawson Rowley, Esq., F.Z.S., June 3rd, being the first examples of this interesting species of Plover ever exhibited in the Society's Gardens.

2. A Red-bellied Monkey (*Cercopithecus erythrogaster*), acquired by purchase on the 8th of June, and believed to be the second known individual of this rare species, which had been originally described by Dr. Gray from a specimen living in the Society's Menagerie\*. The animal was received from a vessel coming from

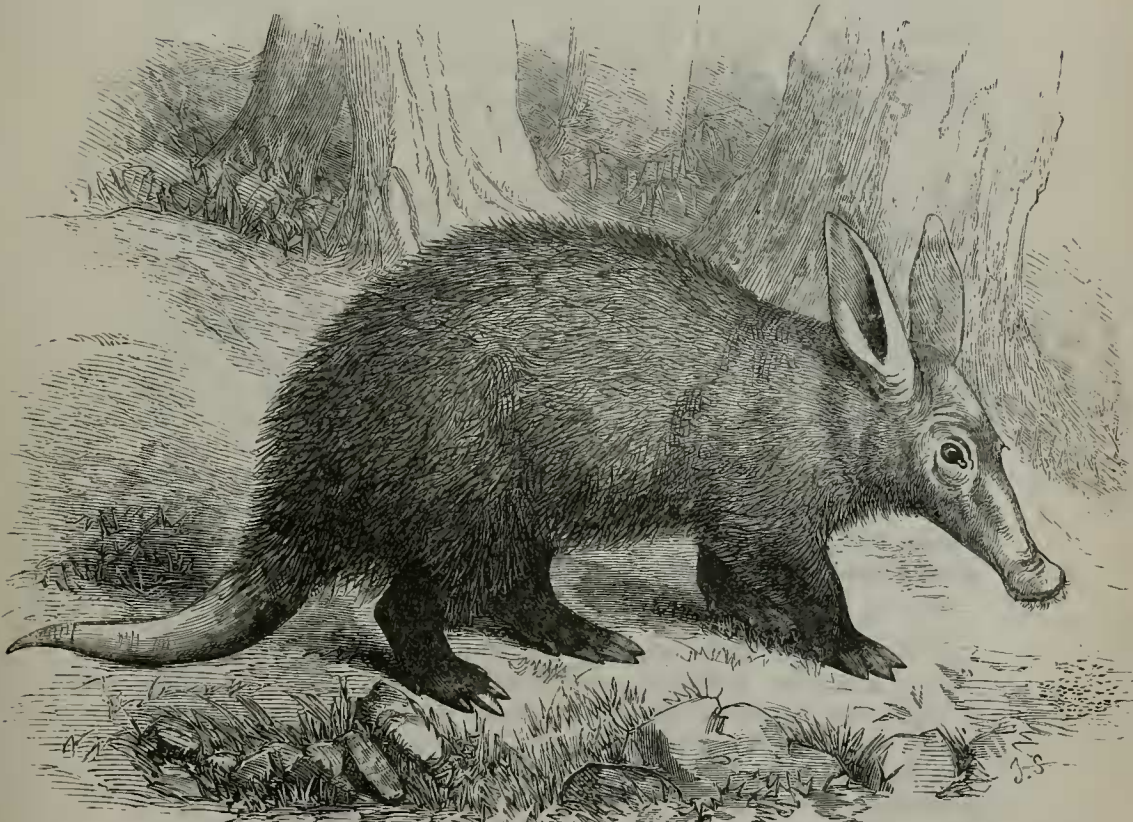
\* See P. Z. S. 1866, p. 169, pl. xvi. Since this was written I have seen a third example of this Monkey in the Hamburgh Museum, and have been informed by Dr. Hilgendorf that this and another specimen were recently living in the Zoological Gardens of that city.—P. L. S.

some part of the West-African coast; but the exact locality was unknown.

3. A New Caledonian Rail (*Ocydromus lafresnayanus*\*), presented to the Society by Dr. George Bennett, F.Z.S., of Sydney, and received, by the 'Paramatta,' on the 10th inst.

This very interesting bird, which had been sent to Dr. Bennett from New Caledonia, was little known in European collections, and had never previously been received alive. It was allied to the Weka Rail (*Ocydromus novæ-zeelandiæ*), but quite distinct specifically, if not generically. A more extended notice of this remarkable bird would be given whenever it died and so afforded the means of making a thorough examination of it. This it was impossible to effect while the bird was living.

4. A Cape Ant-bear (*Orycteropus capensis*), purchased on the 18th of June for £150, and believed to be the first specimen of



*Orycteropus capensis.*

this singular Edentate ever brought to Europe alive. This animal had been purchased at Port Elizabeth, Algoa Bay, and brought to

\* *Gallirallus lafresnayanus*, Verr. et Des Murs, Rev. Zool. 1860, p. 437.

this country by the captain of one of the Union Steamship Company's vessels. It fed well, principally on raw meat pounded small, in the same manner as the American Ant-eaters (*Myrmecophaga jubata*), two specimens of which, obtained in October and November 1867, were still living in good health in the Society's Menagerie.

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Mr. P. L. Selater exhibited some very fine specimens of Snakes, forwarded to the Society by Mr. George Wilks, of Buenos Ayres, C.M.Z.S. These had been determined by Dr. A. Günther as *Heterodon d'orbigny* (Günther's Cat. of Colubrine Snakes, p. 83) and *Euophrys modestus* (*ib.* p. 139).

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Mr. W. T. Blanford, C.M.Z.S., exhibited specimens of the head of a Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros keitloa*?) and of an Ælian's Wart-hog (*Phacochærus aliani*), obtained by him during the late Abyssinian expedition, and called attention to the fact that the incisors were permanent in both jaws of the latter, a fully adult individual.

Mr. Blanford also exhibited, and made remarks upon, some skins of *Hyraxes* obtained by him in various parts of Abyssinia.

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Mr. Blanford exhibited specimens of three very rare Indian birds, viz. *Trocalopteron fairbanki* from the Anamullay Hills, *Prinia adamsi* (with the nest) from near Ahmednuggur, and *Alcippe brucei* from Mahableshwar.

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Mr. Howard Saunders, F.Z.S., exhibited some eggs of the Flamingo (*Phœnicopterus antiquorum*), and the skull and skin of the Spanish Lynx (*Felis cervaria*), obtained by him in the neighbourhood of Seville during a recent visit to Spain.

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The Secretary exhibited, on behalf of Mr. King, and made remarks upon, some drawings by Mr. Tuffen West, illustrating the development of *Hippocampus annulosus* and *H. brevirostris*.

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An extract was read from a letter addressed to the Secretary by Mr. William H. Hudson, dated Buenos Ayres, April 30, 1869. Alluding to the paper by Messrs. Selater and Salvin on birds collected by him near Buenos Ayres (P. Z. S. 1868, p. 137) Mr. Hudson observed, "I regret to find that I have made so great a mistake as to mark as females two of the three black-plumaged Silverbills (*Lichenops perspicillatus*, *l. c.* p. 141). This was pure carelessness, as all the black-plumaged birds I have ever opened were males, and the red females. I have watched them pairing and building their nests, and am therefore quite positive they are male and female, though the country-people here regard them as of different species."



Mr. Selater remarked that the much vexed question whether *L. erythropterus* were really the female of *L. perspicillatus* might thus be considered to be finally set at rest.

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Dr. Habel, of New York, exhibited and made remarks on a selection from a collection of birds formed in the Galapagos Islands, to which he had recently paid a five months' visit. Dr. Habel stated that his whole collection embraced upwards of 300 specimens, referable to about 70 species, some of which he believed to be new to science. Dr. Habel had likewise made extensive collections in other branches of natural history, and was preparing to publish a complete account of the fauna of the Galapagos based upon these investigations.

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The following papers were read:—

1. On *Anarhynchus*.

By Dr. G. HARTLAUB, F.M.Z.S.

It is now thirty-six years since a good French work, the zoological part of the 'Voyage de l'Astrolabe,' by Quoy et Gaimard (Zoologie, Paris, 1833), brought to our knowledge the full and rather detailed generic and specific description of a very curious gallatorial bird from the east coast of the Northern Island of New Zealand. This bird was introduced into the system under the name of *Anarhynchus*, its beak being "recourbé en haut comme les Avocettes et dévié à droite." Though the hunters of this expedition had killed a certain number of individuals, only one, a younger bird, "dont le sexe n'était pas encore caractérisé," was deposited in the galleries of the Jardin des Plantes. Besides this one specimen, the beaks of several others had been collected and preserved, to show that the most anomalous, nay almost incredible, lateral bend of the apical half of the beak was not an accidental but a constant formation. What has become of these beaks? Whether they have really been deposited in the Paris Museum, and whether they are still to be found there or not, nobody has ever ascertained. The unique and very indifferent-looking specimen in the Paris collection having been overlooked by most ornithologists, the whole *Anarhynchus*-matter became rather apocryphal, and the more so when the Nestor of English ornithologists, Mr. G. R. Gray, declared that this bird was represented in the 'Voyage de l'Astrolabe' with a deformed beak, that organ being perfectly straight in most specimens. Now it is really difficult to understand how such an apodictical opinion could have been given by one who certainly had never seen an *Anarhynchus*; for so much is certain, that up to this year no other specimen of the rare New-Zealand bird had reached any of the greater collections of Europe. In Dieffenbach's work, as well as in the 'Zoology of H.M.S.S. Erebus and Terror,' it is simply enumerated; and Bonaparte, who most erroneously places *Anarhynchus* between *Terekia*